



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
<http://latchildrenscommission.org>**

**Monday, July 6, 2015**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING (15-3313)

**Attachments:**    [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (15-3047)

**The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Kamlager at 10:05 a.m.**

Present:            Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Patricia Curry,  
                         Commissioner Wendy Garen, Commissioner Sunny Kang,  
                         Commissioner John Kim, Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey,  
                         Commissioner Liz Seipel and Vice Chair Sydney Kamlager

Excused:           Commissioner Maria Brenes, Commissioner Candace Cooper,  
                         Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Adrienne  
                         Konigar-Macklin, Commissioner Wendy B. Smith and Vice Chair  
                         Carol O. Biondi participated via teleconference, but did not vote.

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1.    Introductions of the July 6, 2015 meeting attendees. (15-3048)

**Self-introductions were made.**

2.    Approval of the July 6, 2015 Meeting Agenda. (15-3049)

**On motion of Commissioner Kim, seconded by Commissioner Kang,  
(Commissioners Brenes, Cooper, Franzen, Konigar-Macklin, Smith, and  
Vice Chair Biondi being absent), this item was approved.**

**DRAFT**

3. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of June 1, 2015. (15-2746)

**On motion of Commissioner Kang, seconded by Commissioner Seipel, (Commissioners Brenes, Cooper, Franzen, Konigar-Macklin, Smith, and Vice Chair Biondi being absent), this item was approved.**

**Attachments:**    [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

4. Vice Chair's report for July 6, 2015. (15-3050)

**Vice Chair Kamlager reported on the following:**

- **Reminded Commissioners to review the Commission's Bylaws and Brown Act requirements. If Commissioners do not have a copy, staff will provide one.**
- **In reference to the June 22, 2015 Los Angeles Times' article entitled "L.A. County's foster center should be closed immediately, panel says," Vice Chair Kamlager clarified that although it may have appeared that one of Commission for Children and Families' Commissioners spoke to the press, it was not true.**
- **Commissioners are encouraged to attend the following workshops as a refresher:**
  - **New Commissioner Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 372 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**
  - **Brown Act Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 374-A of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**
- **Reminded Commissioners that the Commission Leadership Elections are scheduled for this fall.**
- **The Commission Executive Committee will convene the Annual Strategic Planning Retreat prior to the end of the year.**
- **The next Children and Families' Well Being Cluster Board Agenda Briefing Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 743 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.**

**By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Brenes, Cooper, Franzen, Konigar-Macklin, Smith, and Vice Chair Biondi being absent), the Commission accepted Vice Chair Kamlager's report.**

5. Department of Children and Family Services Director's Report for July 6, 2015 by Philip Browning, Director. (15-3051)

**Director Browning reported on the following:**

- **The Children's Welcome Center (CWC) and Youth Welcome Center (YWC) experienced a significant number of infant and sibling set intakes during the Fourth of July Holiday weekend. In accordance with recent State and County expectations, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) continues to take steps toward licensing DCFS facilities where youth spend more than 24 hours. DCFS is currently exploring available resource options that may enable them to host a licensed facility at a lower cost. Director Browning reported that 80 percent of youth that come to the CWC and YWC are placed within 24 hours.**
- **DCFS continues to hire new Social Workers. Since August 2013, DCFS has hired nearly 1,000 Social Workers. When totaling the number of cases for every Children's Social Worker (CSW) with one case or more in all of the regional offices, DCFS's average caseload currently is 24 per CSW. Similar sized jurisdictions suffering from a lawsuit or settlement have caseloads of 15 or below for their continuing Social Workers. In order to comply with the Katie A. panel's request, DCFS needs to have an average caseload of 15 or below. It is estimated that it would take an additional 1,200 staff to be in compliance. Director Browning reported that 12 to 18 cases per CSW would constitute an ideal caseload for DCFS.**
- **DCFS is moving toward a new Core Practice Model in compliance with the Katie A. Settlement and Title IV-E Waiver. The Core Practice Model will implement important changes to achieve its goal of certifying 3,000 Social Workers and Social Workers' Supervisors. Achieving certification allows for a worker to be a Group Leader for a family. DCFS has 300 individuals that have been certified. DCFS held a celebration at St. Anne's Conference Center recognizing these 300 individuals. DCFS is confident that the developments made to their Core Practice Model and new training methods will produce Social Workers who are better prepared to serve children.**

- DCFS has been approved to access payment information on the psychotropic medication prescriptions filled from the California Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) database, which helps DCFS quantify the number of children on psychotropic medications. The next step in the quantifying process involves creating unique identifiers for each one of DCFS's 250,000 active cases. It is estimated that the population of children on psychotropic medication totals 3,600 cases; however, in order to accurately quantify this population, unique identifiers need to be created for the relatives and parents of these children as well. DCFS continues to work to refine its processes.
- An article published by the Los Angeles Times on July 3, 2015 entitled, "State Auditor Cites Failure to Protect Foster Youth from Sex Offenders" has brought media attention to the issue of possible overlaps between the addresses of children in the foster care data base and addresses in the State's sex offender registry. To address this issue, DCFS sends the list of sex offenders on the State's registry directly to their Social Workers. DCFS Social Workers then travel to the site and confirm whether the registered sex offenders reside at the addresses on file. It was reported that the majority of these investigations end up being either old addresses or data entry errors. Although this issue has received media attention, the attention is focused mainly at the State level and not so much on Los Angeles County. DCFS continuously checks their records and is on track with their monthly visits.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Director Browning responded with the following:

- There is a requirement and an expectation that the children receive monthly visits. It is the Social Worker's responsibility to inquire who is in the home while supervising these visitations. In the few instances where the Social Worker has found a match between the child's residence and the residence of a sex offender, DCFS typically already knows about the sex offender, and has taken action to either advise the individual to leave the home or work with lawful enforcement.
- The first sex offender registry list sent by the State was made into an immediate priority by DCFS to get this potential threat out of the way. Among the 10,000 sex offenders named during the first screening, only three cases matched where the child was in the residence of an individual on the list. In many cases, the match proved to be a relative or parent of the child who stayed near the home, but not in the home itself.

- On a monthly basis, DCFS collects files with the names of the newly registered sex offenders and sends these files to DCFS's Information Technology team to cross reference these names with their records; the matches get sent to the DCFS Abuse/Exploitation Hotline and from there, the hotline notifies the social workers and/or supervisors responsible for this area for an immediate response.
- Director Browning gave credit to Fesia Davenport, Interim Director, Office of Child Protection (OCP) and County Counsel for drafting a data sharing protocol among the many County Departments, which will allow for access of information that was not available in the past.
- Another publishing that may receive media attention reported that Foster Family Agency (FFA) Care is more expensive than State Licensed-Care. Director Browning reported that this has been a known situation.
- The July 7, 2015 Board of Supervisors' (Board) Agenda will discuss the County Governance Structure.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Brenes, Cooper, Franzen, Konigar-Macklin, Smith, and Vice Chair Biondi being absent), the Commission accepted Director Browning's report.

### **III. PRESENTATIONS**

6. Presentation by Casey Family Programs on Measuring Outcomes of Cross-Sector Work to Improve Child Safety.
  - Peter J. Pecora, Managing Director of Research Services, Casey Family Programs, and School of Social Work Professor, University of Washington
  - Kristen Rudlang-Perman, Director of Data Analytics and Visualization, Casey Family Programs (15-3056)
  - Commissioner McCroskey provided a brief introduction on data sharing and emphasized the value she sees in the Commission exploring the outcomes in other jurisdictions throughout the Country in terms of Child Welfare. Commissioner McCroskey proceeded to introduce Peter Pecora, Managing Director of Research Services, Casey Family Programs.

**Mr. Pecora reported on the following:**

**There are many challenges associated with handling children; the Casey Family Programs Geographic Analysis Team has found that there are four major areas associated with advances in measuring community, family, and child indicators of health and well-being:**

- 1. Across America, the Compassionate School Movement is gaining momentum, with the emphasis on measuring the level of resilience found in youth. Researchers are mining school data from a target population of youth, 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, by way of short surveys that analyze Behavioral Risk Factors (BRF) and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) through implementing the Neuropsychological Educational Approach to Cognitive Remediation (NEAR). Key factors of the Compassionate School Movement focus on positive indicators and building a framework around “what schools would want to see more of” in these students rather than “what schools would want to see less of.”**
  - Mr. Pecora recommended a 2015 documentary entitled, "Paper Tigers," which chronicles six students from Lincoln High School in the struggling, rural community of Walla Walla, Washington suffering from the effects of ACEs. Through changing its disciplinary approach to match that of the Compassionate School Movement, Lincoln High School was able to achieve a 90 percent decrease in suspensions, a 75 percent decrease in fights and increase graduation rates by 500 percent.**
- 2. Community based projects (focused on defining the indicators involved with housing and urban development) are gaining momentum on a countrywide and global scale. Healthy City has been instrumental in terms of evaluating prevention initiatives and providing a geographically mapped index of the community based needs of Los Angeles. The services and needs of communities grow as jurisdictions gain more knowledge on the geographical mapping of key indicators.**
- 3. Many of the larger Counties have advanced to analyze sub-geographic regions within their borders in order to become more effective in assessing the varying needs of the sub-communities. Mr. Pecora agreed to report back on a website resource dedicated to identifying indicator taxonomies, and encouraged the Commission to begin to think about a small set of indicators they want to measure for children and family health.**

4. **Family Assessment Forms** are being implemented throughout the Country as a standardized strength-based screening tool. This form highlights the growing use of measures, such as child resilience, child welfare and juvenile health. DCFS is beginning to use the Family Assessment Form for 40 of its Family Foster Agencies.

Ms. Rudlang-Perman provided information on how Counties may start to select their outcomes for measurement through developing a short list of indicators. Ms. Rudlang-Perman referenced the supporting document titled “Measuring Outcomes of Cross Sector Work to Improve Child Safety” and stressed the importance of using data that already exists as provided by the Healthy City Cross-Sector Data and California’s strong network of universities.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, the Casey Family Programs representatives responded as follows:

- A model jurisdiction that has developed a successful process for measuring outcomes in order to improve child safety has been observed in Washington State. As one of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grantees, Washington State pulled together its Departments of Health and Departments of Child Well Being and created a Multi-Sector Steering Committee.
- Washington State’s Education Finance Council (EFC) Data Workgroup devoted nine months preparing a glossary that defined terms such as: trauma, secondary trauma, housing urban development, food desert, etc. as they relate to Child Welfare in order for its stakeholders to come to a unified definition of what Child Welfare is; and what their goals are moving forward.
- Director Browning reported that it is a rigorous process to get the many stakeholders accustomed to interpreting and understanding the indicator data. DCFS’s senior managers work closely with the Berkeley site, Casey Family Programs, and Commissioner McCroskey’s group once a month in order to discuss the selection of data to be collected. Director Browning reported that the indicator data collected (measuring outcomes as they relate to child safety) is not currently being audited to verify if the data is worth being collected.



- Fesia Davenport, Interim Director, OCP, reported that DCFS has a robust process for collecting statistics; and one of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection's (BRC) recommendations is for Los Angeles County to report on how it is doing as an entire network (rather than just the reporting DCFS's component). The OCP aims to host a Multi Sector and Multi Departmental Prevention Meeting in order to identify Los Angeles County's data by census track. When these measures are developed the OCP aims to ensure that the entire network can interpret the data from the Departments of Public Health, Public Social Services, and Children and Families in a manner that is not overwhelming and easily understandable.
- Mr. Pecora briefly explained an instance where the state of Illinois discovered that the only barrier preventing 500 foster children from being eligible for adoption was a matter of refining its paperwork process. Mr. Pecora encouraged the Commission to take a closer look in order to spot potential "blind spots" and ensure the right questions are being asked in terms of formulating the parameters around establishing indicator data.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Brenes, Cooper, Franzen, Konigar-Macklin, Smith, and Vice Chair Biondi being absent), the Commission accepted the Casey Family Programs presentation.

Attachments:    [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
                              [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

7. Presentation on the Department of Children and Family Services' Contracting and Contract Compliance.
  - Leticia Torres-Ibarra, DCFS Contracts Division Manager
  - Diana Flaggs, Administrative Services Manager III, Compliance Monitoring (15-3057)

Ms. Flaggs and Ms. Torres-Ibarra presented a PowerPoint and discussed DCFS's Contracting and Contract Compliance.

In response to the material presented, the Commission requested a report back on the following from the Department of Children and Family Services:



- Commissioner Garen requested more detailed information with regard to the total amount of dollars spent on contracts (both large and small), each denoted with a date and time in order to gain a better understanding on the varying amounts of dollars spent with contractors/services delivered, and requested an overview on the auditing process.
- Commissioner Kim inquired about the amount of contracts (percentage) that are sourced within the County, to evaluate if these sources within the County are utilized more frequently.
  - Director Browning responded stating that the majority of the contracts are within Los Angeles County, with few exceptions in San Bernardino and Kern Counties; DCFS does not rule out out-of-county contracts, as they have the potential to provide the best service and may be in close proximity to a youth's original residence.
- Commissioner Kang inquired if the majority of the contracts represent a one-time source in order to determine how many of these contracts are ongoing County expenses.
  - Director Browning reported that some of DCFS's contracts are ongoing and others are one-time sources. When compared with other Counties, Los Angeles County has a rigorous process for approving separate contractual agreements that require additional requisites above what is required to achieve State and Federal Certifications.
- Commissioner Berger inquired if data is being published in the form of a report that provides an overall system wide view of the performance of these contractors, the safety involved with out of home care, and inquired if fiscal monitoring is in place.
- Commissioner McCroskey stated that 99 percent of contractors meet the global performance expectations and indicated that about 40 family preservation agencies have the same outcomes that are easily achievable; until now, there has not been much of an evaluation tool. What is being done to incentivize improvement between these contractors?

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Brenes, Cooper, Franzen, Konigar-Macklin, Smith, and Vice Chair Biondi being absent), the Commission accepted the DCFS Contracting and Contract Compliance's presentation.

Attachments: [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

#### **IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **Matters Not Posted**

9. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-3052)

**There were none.**

##### **Announcements**

10. Announcements for the meeting of July 6, 2015. (15-3053)

**There were none.**

##### **Public Comment**

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-3054)

**No members of the public addressed the Commission.**

##### **Adjournment**

12. Adjournment for the meeting of July 6, 2015. (15-3055)

**The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.**